

Scaling Data: Displaying Information for Different Uses

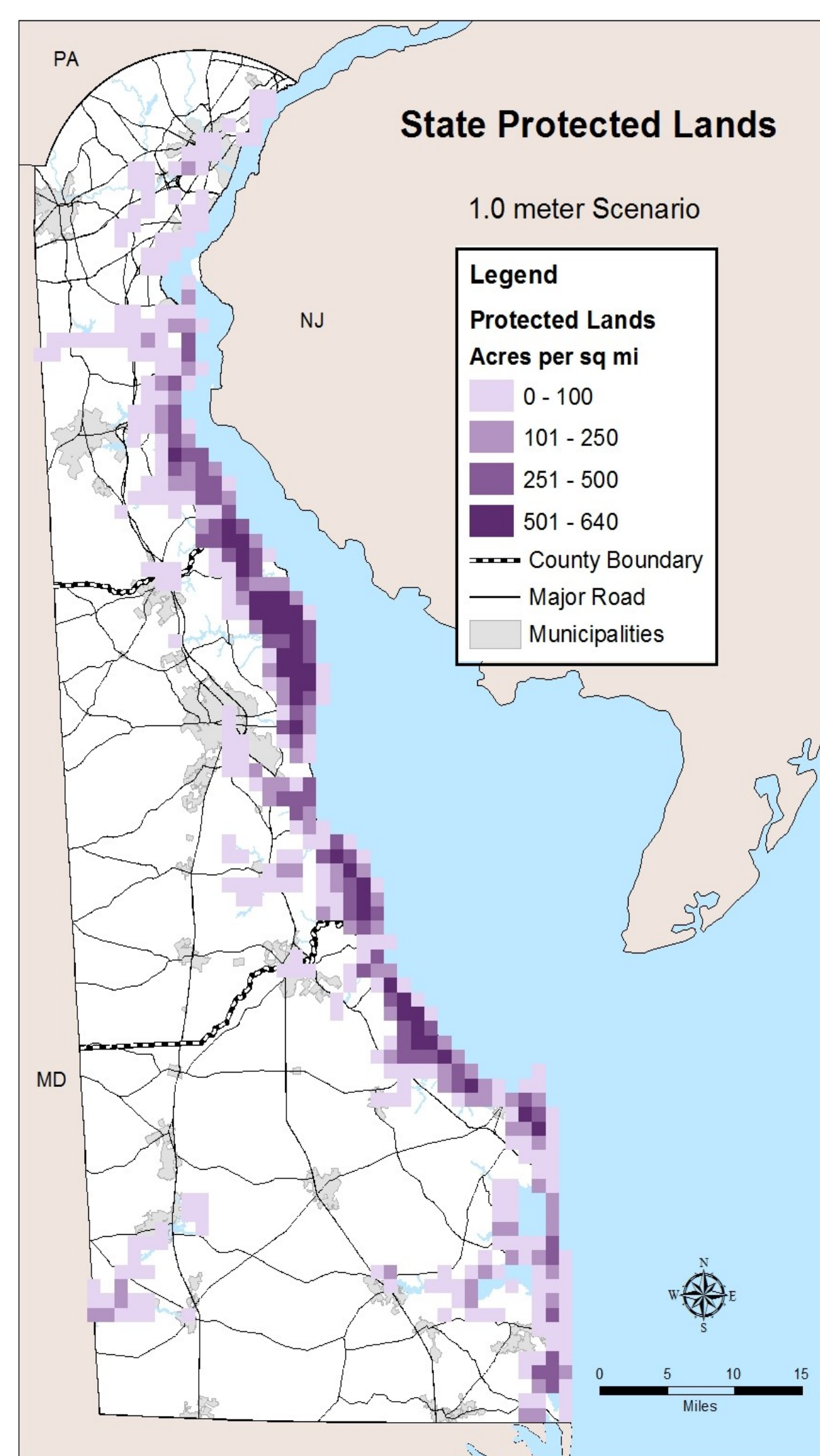
Some datasets developed for the Sea Level Rise Advisory Committee contain hundreds or thousands of individual point locations for a resource; others may contain numerous tracts of land. In order to display this volume of information at a statewide scale, the data is converted into “grid” maps where 1 grid = 1 mi². Using a color coded scale, the grids display either the total number of locations or acres affected within that square mile. At a glance, this allows viewers to see the degree to which a particular resource is affected by sea level rise in relation to other areas within the State.

For smaller areas of interest, decreasing the grid size will more precisely show the areas affected by sea level rise.

At the local level, the area of interest is usually small enough that the actual locations or tracts of land can be displayed.

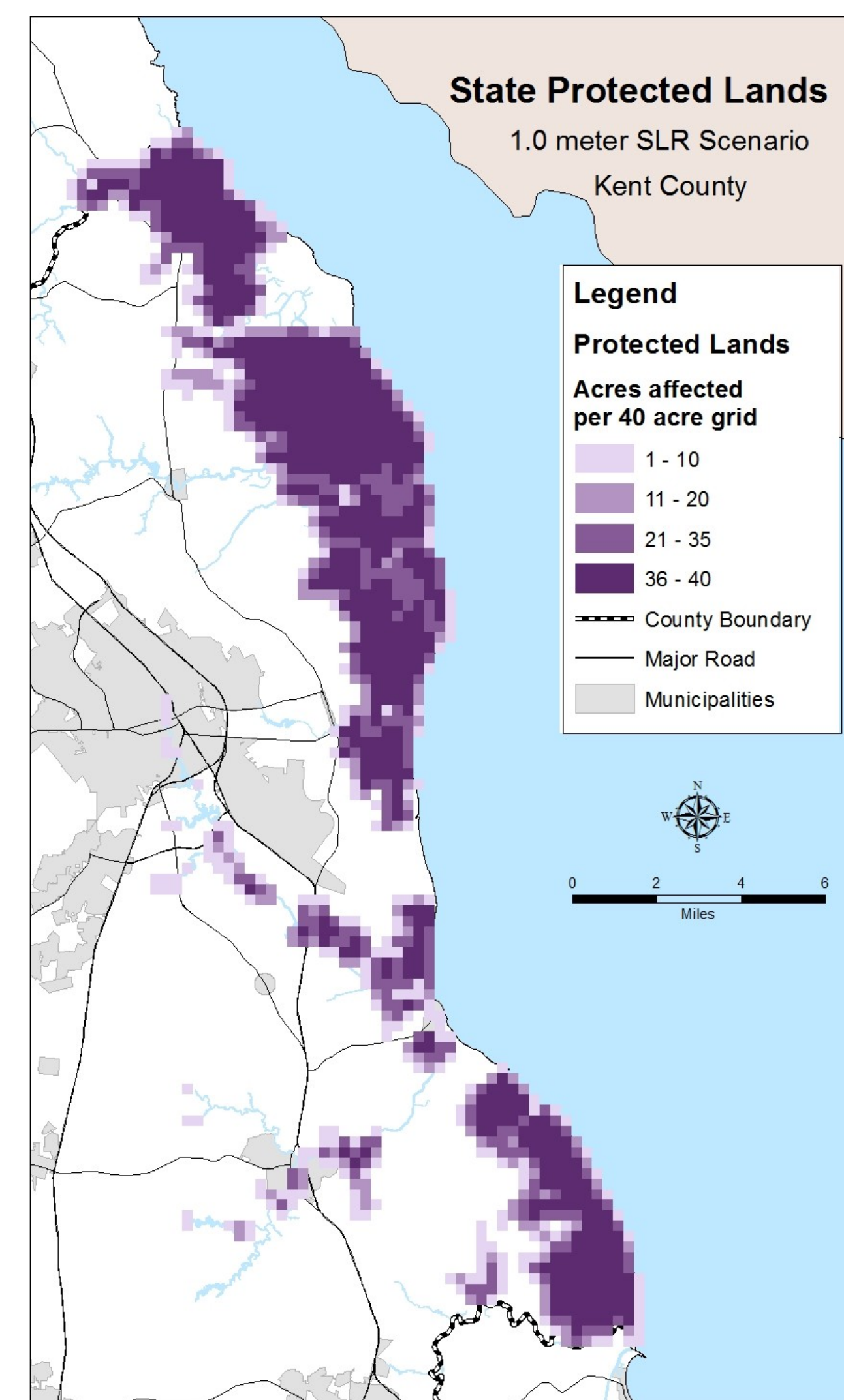
State

1 grid = 1 square mile



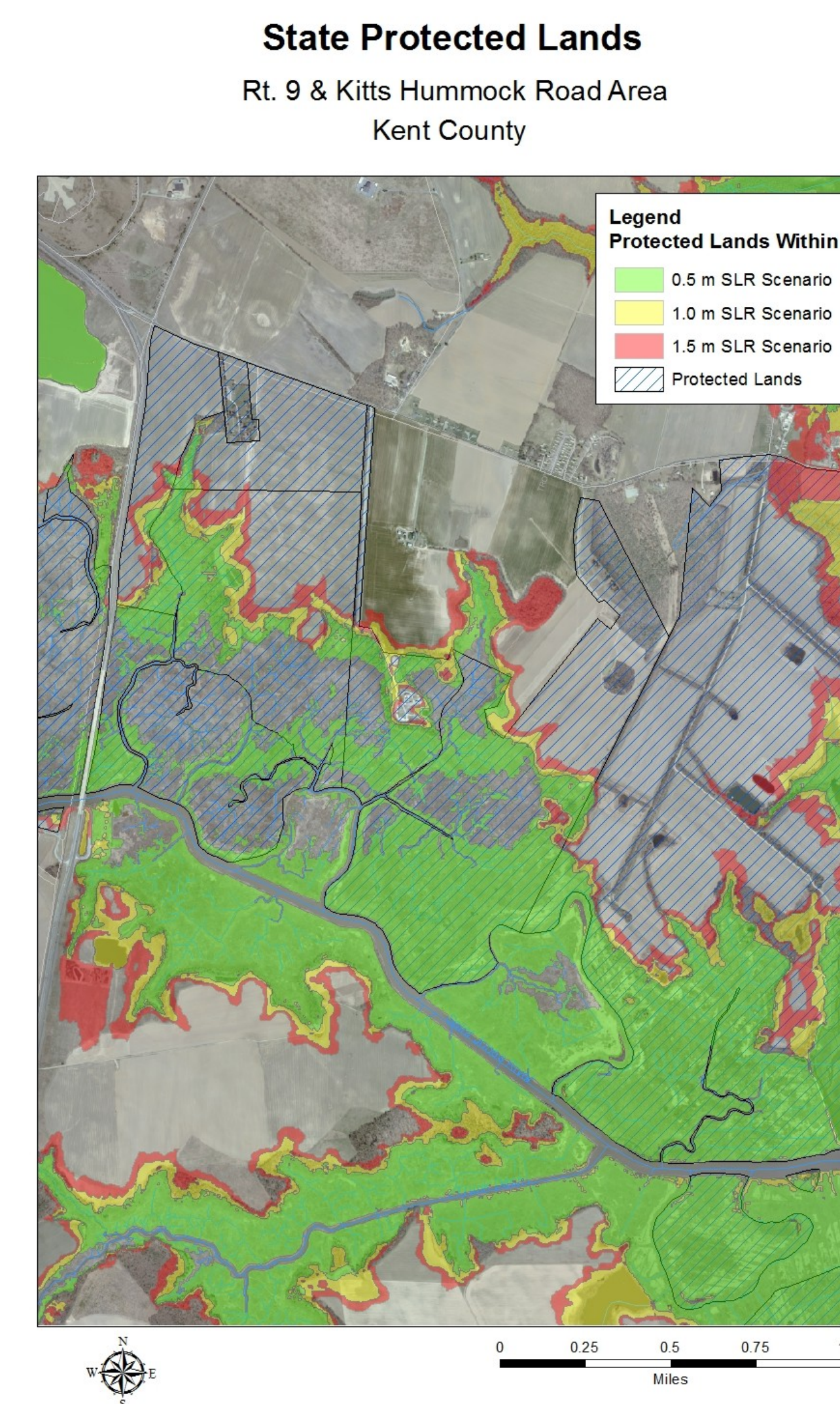
County

1 grid = 1/16 square mile



Local

Non-gridded Data



Each of these maps use the same dataset, the only difference is how each is scaled and displayed.

As the resolution gets finer and the area shown gets smaller, any errors in the data become more noticeable. An extra point or two or an improperly placed boundary line in a square mile grid may be irrelevant. However, at a local level these discrepancies may be significant and it becomes essential to verify the data.

Statewide maps allow for the identification of regions of concern and areas where more detailed study would be required. These maps also show the overall impact of sea level rise on the State's resources.

County maps could be used by those needing more specific information, but not necessarily exact locations. Acreages or total numbers of points in the area can still be easily determined.

Local maps may include aerial photography to precisely show locations. These maps are used to identify individual points or tracts of land to determine how much of a certain tract might be affected.